

# THE WHIG STANDARD.



"Flag of the free! thy folds shall fly,  
The sign of hope and triumph high."

FOR PRESIDENT,  
**HENRY CLAY,**  
OF KENTUCKY.

WASHINGTON.

MONDAY MORNING, JAN. 29, 1844.

## MR. RITCHIE AND "THAT LETTER."

Never, since the days of the veritable Don Quixotte, has there been a knight of the rueful countenance to rival the editor of the Richmond Enquirer! He comes up to his work with all the gravity imaginable, and yet, according to his own admission, he is fighting against nothing! When Mr. Rives's letter first appeared Ritchie looked puzzled—the furrows on his forehead stood prominently forth, like a raised geometrical book we saw the other evening for the use of the blind; presently the brow grew calmer, the muscles of the mouth twitched downwards with strange contortions, and his face was elongated several inches; then he resolutely stuck both his hands in his breeches pocket, walked backwards and forwards the length of his sanctum, and whistled forth, "There's nae luck about the house!" Thus whistling to prevent a lapse into his state of fear, he sat him down and penned an article, saying Rives's letter was no great shakes after all, not worth regarding, and would be a nine days wonder. But strange to say, with all this apparent contempt for that letter, Mr. Ritchie has hardly allowed a day to pass, without talking and prating garrulously about it. Never did the melancholy Prince of Denmark refer more systematically to the condition of Jephthah, Judge of Israel, who had "one daughter and no more," than does our venerable opponent continually "harp" on that letter. Why, neither "that sword" of Tom Dorr's, "those papers" of the snatcher Mayor Morris, nor "those last cards" of the memorable 1840, were ever so trumpeted, with all the orchestral flourish of partisan chorus, as is this letter, which was to fall so harmless and still-born into the grave of forgetfulness!

We have waded through the columns of his editorials on this subject, and our passage through them was as dry as that of the children of Israel through the Red sea. The author arrayed his facts with all the solemnity of a good old pastor, well remembered in our youth, who never closed his exhortation under "nineteenthly;" he gives the letter as many heads as Hydra; attacks each in turn, and comes off from the rencontre puffing and blowing and pretty essentially worsted! Now in the name of all the gods in his political pantheon, what is the use of all this fuss, if Mr. Rives's letter is so harmless! Does Mr. Ritchie see in it a cloud, the size of a man's hand only, which he fears will overshadow the Old Dominion? Does he, like Sheridan's Tiburina, see the enemy, although they are out of sight! Does he retract his first hastily formed opinion, and now confess that the letter of Senator Rives is a calm, logical, comprehensive, and unanswerable argument against Van Buren, and does he, therefore, put extra ammunition and wadding in his guns, that they may make a loud report and produce plenty of smoke, without any particular regard to the execution they may do? It really seems to us as if the Enquirer were about to collapse under the full head of steam which this letter of the Virginia Senator has seemed to kindle up! We shall look daily for an account of "an awful explosion," and seriously advise our venerable colleague not to "wood up" so ferociously—for fear of consequences, disastrous to the country and the great "republican party!"

## PRESENTATION OF NAGLE'S PORTRAIT OF HENRY CLAY.

The Philadelphia Chronicle of Saturday last says that the largest, most brilliant, and most enthusiastic assemblage that we ever remember to have witnessed, was gathered in and about the Musical Fund Hall last evening, to witness the presentation of Nagle's magnificent painting of HENRY CLAY to the National Clay Club.

In half an hour after the doors were opened, however, the entire hall exhibited a condensation of human beings seldom witnessed; every foot of vantage ground was occupied, and shortly afterwards hundreds were vainly attempting to gain admittance. The spectacle was truly brilliant. Not less than twenty-five hundred persons were crowded into the saloon, rather more than one-half ladies, presenting an array of beauty, fashion, and intelligence, which beggars description.

The meeting was addressed by J. G. Clarkson, Esq., who made the presentation, and was replied to by Charles Gibbons, Esq., President of the National Clay Club. He was followed by Josiah Randall, W. B. Reed, Joseph R. Chand-

ler, and Morton McMichael, Esqs., each of whom seemed to be even more ready and eloquent upon this than upon other occasions. The life and character of Henry Clay, his characteristics and principles; the principles, hopes, and success of the Whig party, were in turn descanted upon by the several speakers in a most happy manner. A national air from the band, and a Whig song, set to the most popular music, preceded each address, and a great portion of the audience of both sexes, joined in with a hearty good will. The meeting adjourned at a few minutes before 10 o'clock.

**WHIG NATIONAL CONVENTION.**—The Whigs of the 31st Congressional District of New York, comprising the counties of Cattaraugus and Chautauque, have appointed Porter Welch, of Lodi, as their representative in the Whig National Convention, and Francis H. Ruggles, of Fredonia, as substitute.

**THE TRUE SPIRIT.**—The Columbus (Georgia) Enquirer thus speaks of the approaching canvass: "There is nothing very alarming in the name of the Magician. Twice has Georgia placed the seal of condemnation on his small pretensions; and again her sons are ready, willing, and waiting to confirm their oft-rendered verdict. Let the Whigs then be up, and doing. Form Clay Clubs in every city, town, village, neighborhood, from the mountains to the sea shore; and let us come up this fall with a majority for our leader, that will make old Kentucky herself ashamed of her vote."

It is a happy suggestion which is comprised in the following resolution, passed at the late Whig State Convention in Alabama:

"Resolved, That the Whigs of Alabama meet at the court houses in their respective counties on the 22d day of February, to celebrate the Birthday of GEORGE WASHINGTON, 'the Father of his Country'; and that such meetings be, and are hereby, requested to appoint delegations to the Young Men's Mass Ratification Convention to be held in Baltimore in May next."

## COL. JOHNSON AND A GERMAN VOTER.

The Louisville Journal gives this anecdote of Col. Johnson:

A respectable German called on us yesterday and repeated a conversation that he had at Frankfort, last winter, with Col. Johnson, to whom he was introduced by a friend from Harrodsburg. "Colonel," said the Harrodsburg gentleman, "let me introduce you to Mr. —, a German, and a very clever man, but not of your politics." "What!" said the Colonel, "a German and not a Democrat? That is strange." "It is very true, Colonel," said the German, "that I am not of your politics. I like you very well personally, but I am opposed to Mr. Van Buren, and would go barefoot 700 miles to vote for Mr. Clay." "What is your objection to Mr. Van Buren?" said Colonel Johnson. "I dislike him for his standing army scheme, and for his sub-treasury," replied the German. "There it is!" exclaimed Col. Johnson, turning to his friend from Harrodsburg; "a hundred men could not remove from this gentleman's mind the strong impression made against Mr. Van Buren by that standing army project; and there are thousands of others like him; and Mr. Van Buren, if he were to be the candidate in 1844, would feel the effects of it."

**A NEW MEMBER.**—The New York Sun says that a country paper thus notices the receipt of intelligence from Washington that the member of Congress from its district, who is rather inexperienced, had been making a speech:

There was a great stir here one day last week. News, it seems, had come on direct from Washington that "the Doctor" had made a speech! Of course the brethren were a good deal aroused, and began to collect in groups to learn of the matter. Some declared that the phenomenon occurred during the debate touching General Jackson's fine; others said not so, the Dr. had expressed his opinion in regard to the snags in the Western rivers, and their bearing in a national point of view, &c. It was certain that the M. C. had broken loose somewhere, but nobody knew with any certainty what he had been at. The New York papers were full of murders and other trifling occurrences, but said nothing of the speech. This was tantalizing—this was. The Washington papers were scanned, but for a time nothing could be gathered from them even to satisfy the public curiosity. It seemed to be a case. At last, the following paragraphs were found in the Madisonian giving a report of the proceedings of Monday week:

"Mr. — made some remarks, which were inaudible to the reporter."

"Mr. — made some remarks in relation to printing, but they were not understood."

Doctor, if you are "Mr. —," we shall take leave to say that this sort of thing won't do at all. Your remarks may not be "understood" under some circumstances, possibly, but don't let them be "inaudible." Speak up, man, and don't be 'afraid.' Blow it out straight, steam or no steam! Let 'em know "who has come to town."

**CONGRESSIONAL STATISTICS.**—A down East man, a relative no doubt of Major Jack Downing, or Sam Slick, in writing to his friend of the New Orleans Republican, gives the following unique division of the House of Representatives:

Members talkin' sassy	-	5
" tryin' to skeer folks	-	3
" wantin' to know whether the honorable gentleman ment what he said	-	2
" callin' to order	-	64
" would'n't come to order	-	51
" hollerin' out "set down"	-	12
" wantin' to come a strong game over the rules of the House	-	37
" could n't do it, no how	-	35
" fist fights	-	0
" gougins	-	0
" pullin' noses	-	0

The above "statistics" will not answer (nor do we suppose they could be intended) for the past week of the session. The two first items, particularly, have been largely increased, but to no purpose. And as to the "fist-fights," they are especially "on the rise," as some of the majority seem to prefer that mode of enforcing their arguments.

**RHODE ISLAND.**—The Legislature of this State on Thursday proceeded to choose a United States Senator to fill the place of Hon. William Sprague, resigned. The vote stood—  
For John Brown Francis, (Law and Order). . . 67  
" Christopher Spencer, (Dorr). . . . . 26

Majority for Francis. . . . . 41  
So Hon. John Brown Francis, formerly Governor of the State, was elected a U. S. Senator for the term which expires on March 4th, 1845.

**MAINE.**—A Special Election for Member of Congress was held in the VIIth (far Eastern) District of Maine on Monday, 22d inst. The Bangor Whig of Tuesday evening has returns from 25 towns, showing a gain of 184 for Robinson, the Whig candidate. The vote is heavy.

**MISSISSIPPI.**—Gen. JESSE SPEIGHT was on the 8th inst. elected a United States Senator from Mississippi, for six years, from the 4th of March, 1845, when the term of the Hon. John Henderson, Whig, will expire. The vote in joint ballot of the Legislature stood:

	1st ballot.	2d ballot.
Roger Barton, Loco,	44	43
Jesse Speight, do,	35	74
C. P. Smith, Whig,	45	6
Joseph E. Marshall,	3	

So the Whigs, as a choice of evils, threw their votes for Gen. Speight, and elected him.

The New York Tribune says that he is a dull, heavy man, full six feet six inches high, and the most ungainly mortal on the continent—in nothing else remarkable but as a bigoted Locofoco.

**DEATH OF JUDGE GASTON.**—We stop the press to announce the death of the Hon. WILLIAM GASTON, one of the Judges of the Supreme Court of North Carolina. He expired very suddenly (at the residence of Mrs. Taylor, in this city,) last evening, about 8 o'clock.—*Raleigh (N. C.) Standard.*

**OLD AGE AND TEMPERANCE.**—The Schenectady Cabinet says: On Thursday last, the 19th inst., our esteemed fellow-citizen, the venerable Mr. John J. Van Voast, entered upon the one hundred and fourth year of his age. Gifted by nature with a healthful and vigorous constitution, Mr. Van Voast has lived a life of activity, sobriety, and temperance. A few years ago, when conversing with a neighbor, he observed, that during the revolutionary war, from his aversion to ardent spirits, he commuted that part of his rations for money. Though he is now encompassed with the infirmities of age, we hope the time is still distant, "when the pitcher shall be broken at the fountain or the wheel broken at the cistern."

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ONONDAGA SALT SPRINGS TO THE N. Y. LEGISLATURE.**—We find from this report that there have been manufactured of salt in the town of Salina the past year, 3,127,500 bushels, being an increase over the preceding year of 835,597 bushels. The cause of this increase is stated to be the law of April last, giving a bounty on salt delivered at certain points, thus securing to the manufacturer markets hitherto excluded from him. Had it not been for some unfavorable causes, not likely to occur again, it is thought 300,000 bushels more would have been manufactured. Several improvements have been made in the salt, and more are anticipated.

The net revenue collected from all sources for the year 1843, is \$112,074 54, being an increase over 1842 of \$30,255 01. The gain to the canal fund over last year, from salt arrived at tide water, is this year \$10,217 97. The gain over last year of salt delivered at Buffalo and Oswego is \$9,471 97.—*Albany Evening Journal.*

**A TREE IN ENGLAND OLDER THAN THE PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT!**—A fossil tree has been discovered in a quarry at Birmingham. The discoverer assumes that it has been there "thousands of years" before the materials of the Egyptian pyramids were consolidated!

**FLOUR.**—The Detroit Advertiser gives the annexed extract from a circular addressed to their western customers by the house of Suydam, Sage, & Co., of the city of New York, and extensive dealers in flour. The great increase of the quantity of flour consumed in 1843, among the manufacturing population of Massachusetts and other Eastern States, is a fact that speaks with strong emphasis in favor of manufacturers and the importance of their prosperity and growth to the farmer. The circular is dated December 21st, 1843.

"It would appear from the above table of receipts and exports, that although the arrivals of wheat and flour at tide water, have exceeded the previous year 512,000 barrels, and the exports have not equalled those of last year, still the stock on hand does not exceed that of last season more than 200,000 barrels; showing that there has entered into consumption over 300,000 barrels more this than the previous year, (as we are advised, the stocks at the east are not now larger than last season,) while prices have ruled upon the average full 25 cents per barrel higher. This increased consumption may be attributed to the general prosperity prevalent among the manufacturing population of the east, causing the employment of a larger number of hands, and consequently a greater consumption of the products of the west."

**DANIEL WEBSTER.**—We mentioned some time since that Mr. Webster designed to make New York his residence, and prosecute here the profession of the law. The arrangements have since been completed, and Mr. Webster expects to be here early in March. He associates with him Joseph W. Moulton, Esq., and Edgar S. Van Winkle, Esq., members of the bar of this city—the first taking charge of the chancery, and the second of the law practice. Mr. Webster confines himself to the duties of a counsellor and barrister. Their offices are to be on the second floor of the Exchange, above the post office.  
*N. Y. Tribune.*

The St. Louis Republican adds to the list of those who lost their lives by the accident to the steamboat Shepherdess, the names of the Rev. Elijah Gates, of the Baptist Church, his wife and servant, of Kentucky.

The New York Tribune gives the following account of the celebrated "talking machine." Send it down this way, there are some more "machines" about here that can repeat what they are told better than that:

"The sounds issue from the lips of a mask that as they open and shut reveal a tongue that plays like the living member, though not so 'limberly.' It is really laughable to see this bust placed upright, with a turbaned head and whiskered face, slowly enunciating in a whining tone sounds which we have heretofore considered as belonging exclusively to our species. It beats the parrot out and out. It will go through our alphabets and numerals with great precision, and say 'three hundred and thirty-three thousand three hundred and thirty-three' as a German may despair of ever saying. It speaks with a decided tone, as it had lost its palate, and with great deliberation. If Mr. Faber himself could speak English, we have no doubt his wooden pupil would improve rapidly, and enunciate much more readily. The grave, solemn countenance never changes, no matter how funny the words may be. Uncivil as it may seem, one cannot help laughing in this mysterious creature's face when with head erect, and glassy eyes fixed on some distant object, he says, 'Good-mornin'-gentle-men-and-ladies.' He undertook to sing 'Hail Columbia, Happy Land,' but we cannot say he was a Grist or a Clara Novella; however, he stopped now and then, and performed some 'shakes' admirably. We thought he sung better in Dutch than English. The perfection of the instrument may be seen in the correctness with which it pronounces not only the full vowel sounds, but the middle sounds. Mr. F. has been engaged on it seventeen years, and it took him seven years to get the sound of 'e' alone."

In the memoirs of Gerald Griffin, the author of that admirable novel "The Collegians," the following passage occurs relative to London printers, who have the powers of Champollion in the decyphering of hieroglyphics:

**DECYIPHERING POWER OF LONDON PRINTERS.**—You tax me with my illegible writing, but I fear I cannot amend it, for I must not stay to shape my letters; and I have, I believe, got in a bad habit from the facility with which the printers here make it out. I verily believe, if I shut my eyes, or flung the pen at the paper so as to make any kind of mark, the London printers would know what I intended to say. They always send me back my manuscripts, with printed proofs for correction; and I actually have repeatedly been unable to make out what I had written until I had referred to the same articles in print.

The following paragraph is from the Sandwich Island Temperance Advocate of July 17, 1843:

"It is now four years since Mrs. Lowell, at the suggestion of Mr. Milo Calkin, instructed a native woman to make the first sugar bag. Since that time not less than 65,000 bags have been made, and sold for \$6,500, or ten cents each. A very handsome sum for female industry. It is but justice to remark that most of this labor has been performed by females connected with the Rev. L. Smith's society in Honolulu. During the first year the females contributed about \$400 towards the erection of their house of worship. The natives in the other parts of the islands are now following the example of the members of Mr. Smith's congregation."

The lower House of the Legislature of Ohio have refused, by a unanimous vote of all the members, to make any change in the law which requires the Auditor of the State to levy annually such tax as may be requisite for the payment of the interest on the public debt.—*Balt. Amer.*

**AFRAY AT NASHVILLE.**—We learn that an affray of an extraordinary character occurred at Nashville on the 2d inst. A relation of the circumstances of the affair was made to us last week, but we refrained from noticing it in our columns, desiring upon mere rumor to give publicity to an occurrence so disgraceful to the judicial character of our State. It seems that Judge Turley, one of the Judges of our Supreme Court, had offered a wanton insult to a highly respectable and amiable lady of Nashville, whose name we forbear mentioning. The facts were communicated to Major Turner, clerk of the Circuit Court, who being a relative of the lady, made her cause his own, and meeting the Judge as he was leaving the courthouse, inflicted upon him a caning so sound and hearty that he will have reason to remember it for some time to come.—*Knoxville Register.*

The editor of the Vicksburg Sentinel, corresponding with his journal from Jackson, relates a rumor aloft there of an extraordinary occurrence transpiring in that place recently. It seems a young amateur practitioner in Mesmerism succeeded in putting an African servant into slumber, and in the same moment was seized with fever and chills, which were communicated at once to the Mesmerised subject, and they are both lying now in a pitiable state. The magnetiser is so sick to wake up his subject, and there they lie shivering in company.

**"HURRAH FOR OLD KENTUCKY."**—The Concordia Intelligencer tells a pretty good joke of a fellow who was walking ashore from that splendid boat, the "Harry of the West"—his bundle in one hand and five dollars in specie clenched in the other—on a single plank, and heedless of his way, he tripped, and fell souse into the river. In an instant, recovering himself, he struck manfully for the shore, waded out in full view of the boat, shook himself like a huge water-dog, and found but two of the shiners left—he was angered at the plank, mad with himself, furious at the loss of his money, and more than furious at the monstrous Mississippi. He looked at the plank, the river, the boat, his money, and wound up the survey by venting his spleen as follows—

"I've got five dollars in this here bundle, two dollars in my hand—have just been ducked—stand five feet ten in my stocking feet—tolerably stout for my age—rather mad—and dog my cats if I can't flog any man on that boat, for fist fight or rough and tumble! Who'd say yes? Whoop! whoop! Hurrah for old Kentucky!"

**NAVAL.**—The steamer brings accounts of the arrival of the United States frigate Cumberland, Com. Smith, at Gibraltar.

The Delaware, Com. Morris, was expected to sail for the United States as soon as the Cumberland should arrive at Mahon.

The Congress had arrived at Gibraltar on her way to Rio Janeiro, to exchange with the Columbia frigate.

The ship of the line Columbus is expected to leave the Brazil station as soon as the Karitan arrives out.

The United States brig Pioneer, T. D. Shaw, Commander, will sail from Norfolk for the coast of Brazil, early in the next month.

The United States ship Preble sailed from Boston on last Monday. Her destination is not known here.—*Boston Mercantile.*

TO THE PUBLISHER OF THE STANDARD.  
I ask, as an act of justice to me, that you will give the following an insertion in your paper on Monday.  
Very respectfully yours,  
N. SARGENT.

## TO THE EDITORS OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

Messrs. GALES & SEATON: I must beg the use of your columns to reply to an assault upon my character on the floor of the House of Representatives to-day by Mr. WISE. He said, as I understood him, that I had made a statement which had been proved to be false in a court of justice, and that when called upon in reference to it, I had exhibited as much cowardice as mendacity.

The statement alluded to by Mr. Wise, I presume, was my account of the affair between himself and Mr. STANLEY on returning from the race-course in 1842, out of which resulted a challenge of the former by the latter. The facts, as related by me at that time, I took the pains to obtain from the best source: not content to give any one of the thousand and one rumors floating about the city.

The account I had of the affray was given me by Mr. STANLEY himself in presence of the Hon. Mr. MANGUM, of the Senate. And I refer to Mr. MANGUM with perfect confidence to sustain the correctness of the relation I gave of the affair, except that in one point I fell short of what I might have said, having a favorable bearing to Mr. STANLEY, according to the statement of the facts given me. He will bear me out, I am confident, in saying that I manifested and expressed at the time an earnest desire to give a plain, unvarnished, and impartial statement of the whole affair.

Mr. Wise afterwards called on me in the lobby of the House of Representatives, to know upon what authority I had made that statement. I replied, upon authority I considered worthy to be relied on. He said the account I had given of the affray was not correct. My reply was that I had seen no evidence that it was not true. High words soon passed between us, and to some abusive language, I replied, "I throw that all back in your teeth." After a few moments we separated, I turning upon my heel and leaving him. Whether I exhibited cowardice on that occasion I am willing should be decided by those who witnessed the interview between us, among whom I recollect was Mr. TOLAND, then a member from the second district of Pennsylvania.

As to my statement having been proved to be false in a court of justice: suppose there were discrepancies between my account and that given by the witness in court, is such discrepancy, in some unimportant and immaterial circumstances, to be taken as an evidence of a deliberate falsehood on my part? If so, then every editor in the country, and almost every individual, could, upon the same ground, be accused of falsehood. I trust I shall not be convicted on such grounds, having, as I have shown, taken unusual pains to arrive at truth.

As to the justice of assailing a man on account of an old grudge, from a position which debars the assailed from reply, I leave it to the calm and unbiased judgment of the public.

NATHAN SARGENT.  
WASHINGTON, Jan. 26, 1844.

## THE NAVY YARD.

WASHINGTON, January 23, 1844.

One of the largest meetings of the working-men and citizens generally ever held in this part of the city was held this evening, when, on motion, Mr. W. H. Custus was called to the chair, and Mr. Geo. W. Clarke appointed secretary.

The object of the meeting being stated by the Chair, the following preamble and resolutions were presented, and after many interchanges of opinion, were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, the editors of some of the city papers have given, doubtless through misinformation, an exaggerated coloring to the proceedings which lately took place in the vicinity of the Navy Yard in consequence of the rejection of the Hon. David Henshaw, late Secretary of the Navy, by making it appear that all the people in the vicinity participated in the proceedings; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That we, the resident citizens, including the few now employed in the Navy Yard, as well as the many lately employed therein, disavow having any participation in the proceedings alluded to.

Resolved, That the bonfire and procession alluded to was, as we learn, gotten up on the spur of the moment by a very few, most of whom were boys, and we, in our capacity as citizens, did not feel justified to interrupt, though we at the time heartily condemned.

Resolved, That there was no general illumination, or other demonstration of joy, and that we trust we know our duty too well as citizens to participate in such proceedings, and that we feel this declaration would be entirely gratuitous had not the public papers, through misinformation, made that appear unanimous which, in reality, was very limited.

Resolved, That, in our disavowal of a participation in the proceedings above alluded to, as American citizens, we are not operated upon by a spirit of slavish fear, but by a sincere desire that the truth should be publicly known.

Resolved, That the editors of the city papers generally, and the Baltimore Sun, be requested to publish the above proceedings.

And, on motion, the meeting adjourned.  
WM. H. CUSTUS, Chairman.  
Geo. W. CLARKE, Secretary.

**BRITISH LUSTRE.**—200 lbs. British Lustre, for cleaning Stoves and Grates, just received at  
GILMAN'S,  
dec 6 (late Todd's) Drug Store.

**APOTHECARIES' HALL MAGNESIA,** superior in every respect, to the common calcined, and quite equal to the celebrated Henry's Magnesia, and at a less price. A fresh supply of the above just received at  
dec 6 GILMAN'S  
Drug store.